



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 5  
77 WEST JACKSON BOULEVARD  
CHICAGO, IL 60604-3590

MAY 17 2007

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

S-6J

Polly Freer  
President  
Kalamazoo Public Schools  
1220 Howard Street  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008

Dear Ms. Freer:

Thank you for your April 13, 2007 letter to Stephen Johnson, Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency regarding the planned Time-Critical Removal Action at the former Plainwell Impoundment in the Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site. Your letter was referred to me for a response. The concerns raised in your letter are similar to those raised in your April 13, 2007 letter to Mary Gade, the Region 5 Administrator. Enclosed is a copy of the April 30, 2007 letter from Mary Gade addressing your concerns.

If you have any further questions, please contact me or Mr. Samuel Borries, the Superfund On-Scene Coordinator for this project at (312) 353-8360.

Sincerely yours,

Richard C. Karl, Director  
Superfund Division

Enclosure

cc: Steven Chester, Director, MDEQ  
Jim Sygo, MDEQ  
Andy Hogarth, MDEQ  
Daria Devantier, MDEQ  
Paul Bucholtz, MDEQ

US EPA RECORDS CENTER REGION 5



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APR 30 2007

REPLY TO THE ATTENTION OF

R19-J

Polly Freer  
President  
Kalamazoo Public Schools  
1220 Howard Street  
Kalamazoo, Michigan 49008

Dear Ms. Freer:

Thank you for your April 13, 2007 letter regarding the planned Time-Critical Removal Action ("TCRA") at the former Plainwell Impoundment in the Allied Paper, Inc./Portage Creek/Kalamazoo River Superfund Site. In your letter, you requested that the current plan to place the PCB-contaminated materials from the Plainwell Impoundment into the Allied Paper Landfill ("Landfill") be stopped and that an alternate plan be developed.

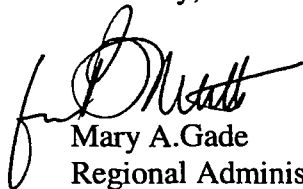
On April 25, 2007, the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("U.S. EPA") and the State of Michigan announced that Georgia-Pacific and Millennium Holdings had agreed not to send the PCB-contaminated material from the Plainwell Impoundment, to the Landfill. Instead, material excavated during the 2007 construction season will be sent to permitted commercial landfills. This alternative disposal plan was proposed by the companies and agreed to by the U.S. EPA and the State of Michigan. No decision has been made regarding a disposal site or sites for material excavated during the 2008 construction season. However, U.S. EPA will solicit public input on future disposal plans before a final decision is made.

Although the disposal plan for 2007 has been revised, both U.S. EPA and the State of Michigan firmly believe the original plan to place Plainwell Impoundment materials at the Landfill is fully protective of human health and the environment and would have presented no negative impacts to the Kalamazoo community or the environment.

We are aware of the concerns of City of Kalamazoo officials and residents about disposal at the Landfill. We will ensure that the public is given an opportunity to provide input regarding disposal options for material removed in 2008. In the meantime, the time-critical cleanup work at the Plainwell Impoundment will resume on May 2, 2007.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have any further questions, please contact me or Mr. Samuel Borries, the Superfund On-Scene Coordinator for this project at (312) 353-8360.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mary A. Gade", is written over the typed name.

Mary A. Gade  
Regional Administrator

cc: Steven Chester, Director, MDEQ  
Jim Sygo, MDEQ  
Andy Hogarth, MDEQ  
Daria Devantier, MDEQ  
Paul Bucholtz, MDEQ